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tioned in inverse ratio to the resources of the taxpayers, the extreme poverty of the bulk of the latter, the heavy demands and the unrestrained powers of the government, all militate against the stability of the currency. The outbreak of hostilities in the East has immediately been followed by an issue of uncovered paper, and the exigencies of war may yet compel a return to the time-honored expedient of fiat money.

I. A. H.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Anthracite Communities: A Study of the Demography, the Social, Educational and Moral Life of the Anthracite Regions. By PETER ROBERTS. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904. 8vo, pp. xiii + 387.

Die Lage der Bergarbeiter im Ruhrrevier. By LORENZ PIEPER. Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta'sche Buchhandlung Nachfolger, 1903. 8vo, pp. xii + 266.

THESE two volumes, though dealing with mining districts widely separated, present, as might be expected, many problems of the same character. They are the problems of large and compact bodies of rude laborers, in practical isolation, performing a highly dangerous service. What one would not look for, but finds, is the existence of common problems growing out of race antagonism. In the anthracite region every one is impressed with the social and economical import of the "Slav invasion;" the Ruhrrevier has also its portentous *Poienfrage*.

Of the two books that of Dr. Roberts has, as its title indicates, the broader scope. While primarily concerned with the mining population of the anthracite region, he is led into a study of community life, both as influencing, and as influenced by, those employed at the mines. The book is the continuation of the study begun in the *Anthracite Coal Industry* (1901), which was reviewed in this JOURNAL for June, 1902. The starting-point is made in the analysis of the population and its physical environment. The presence of twenty-six nationalities here is made to color the account in every chapter of the book. The usual division of these peoples into "English-speaking" or "Anglo-Saxon" peoples on the one hand, and the "Slavs," including all those from southern and eastern

Europe, on the other, is followed by Dr. Roberts. More carefully than is done elsewhere, he estimates the number of the Slavs, and concludes that 50 per cent. of those employed at the mines are of this class, and that the total population so designated is about 100,000. Between these and the "white" population there is a social chasm, about the only sign of bridging which is found in the co-operation of every nationality in the strikes of 1900 and 1902, and in the continuance of the United Mine Workers' Union.

The evidence of a low standard of morality, even when compared with the rest of the state of Pennsylvania, is found in criminal statistics, in the prevalence of saloons, and in the low tone of private and political morals. Two influences at work to produce the conditions described are worthy of all the emphasis the author gives them: (1) the influence of the mixture of races, and (2) the effect of absentee control of the business of the community. On the first point Dr. Roberts says:

The mixtures in the anthracite coal fields cannot be studied, but the conviction grows that the moral constraint due to discipline and order is largely wanting. In every town differences on the main points of human life are tolerated. It cannot be otherwise in a society where customs differ. But this tolerance results in carelessness of manners and leads to skepticism. Many are led to believe, as they see peoples diverge on moral questions, that right and wrong are the creatures of human caprice, having no objective validity in the well-being of society. The native-born questions the traditional ideas imported from beyond the seas, which were potent factors in the lives of his parents and tended to the preservation of law and order. The inevitable consequence is moral retrogression. It is patent to all, and leads to disastrous consequences in the lives of native-born or foreign-born parents. The great need of the hour in the mining communities is the introduction of intellectual and moral forces which will counteract the tendency to retrogression from this mixture of races.

While moral and economic standards have been lowered by the influx of an ignorant and alien population, there has gone along with the centralization of control of the industry the withdrawal of the property-owning class.

The withdrawal of the élite members of the anthracite communities means the weakening of the conservative factor, and the readier subjection of those remaining to the crudities and vagaries of the ignorant and the designing. . . . This lowest stratum of the liberal factor disturbs the peace of these communities, leads to culpable wastefulness in management of public finance, and confounds industrial relations so that the mining business is either raised to the verge of a revolution or debased to the condition of abject servitude.

Chapter xii, which deals with "Politics in Mining Communities," might well have had this for a text. The existence of corrupt machine politics can be accounted for largely by the fact that these communities are in Pennsylvania; but one cannot doubt that corruption in borough and county affairs, the inefficiency and wastefulness of every public undertaking, and the lack of adequate provision for health, comfort, and pleasure, which the author graphically describes, are due in large measure to absenteeism. Economy can hardly be expected where, as is the case in thirteen townships in Schuylkill county, from 84 to 97 per cent. of the taxes are paid by corporations represented in the locality only by inferior officials whose sole business it is to exploit the mines.

An inadequate treatment is given to the methods of relief organized by the companies; but much detail is given of miners' organizations for sick benefits, and other fraternal purposes with which the region seems to abound. Much information is also given about "those who save" by depositing in the banks and through building and loan associations. But after all the "averages" given, and in spite of numerous examples, thrift is not a characteristic of these communities. The chapter on home life shows ignorant and wasteful expenditure; the one on the "Men at the Bar" shows that these communities support 3,000 saloons. One saloon for each 100 of population is not unusual. Mahanoy City, with 13,700 people, requires 143 saloons, while its spiritual needs are supplied by 17 churches. McAdoo, a purely mining town, has one saloon for each 70 persons. The estimate is made that \$10,800,000 are annually expended in drinking-places in the whole region.

The book must leave the impression with the reader that life in the anthracite communities is mostly tragedy. The closing chapter tries to point the "way out," (1) through Harrisburg, chiefly by the enactment of better laws, with better enforcement to lessen dangers and to provide for relief in case of accidents, to check drunkenness and vice, and to provide better sanitary conditions; (2) through the spiritualizing influence of the church. But it is not in a hopeful tone that these suggestions are made.

The district described by Dr. Pieper lies in Westphalia, on both sides of the Ruhr, near where it falls into the Rhine. Although the mines have long been worked, their great development has taken place since 1865, and during the past ten years production has

doubled, and the working force has risen from 127,000 to 227,000 men. Unlike the anthracite region, the Ruhrrevier has before it a long period of rapid development. While immigration to the former has practically ceased, according to Dr. Roberts, the population of the Ruhr district is growing rapidly. The mining force is being recruited, not from the sons of miners—only 15 per cent. are such—but by immigrants chiefly from the agricultural districts. Over one-third of the miners are non-German-speaking, most of them classed as Poles, though thirty-six languages are represented. Against the Poles there is great bitterness—an expression of the *Alldeutsch* movement. The author can find no valid ground for the hostility based on their influence in depressing wages. They are, on the whole, temperate and thrifty. It is estimated that they send “home” two-thirds of their earnings. They supply almost solely—as the same class, until recently, has done in the anthracite region—the unskilled labor of the mines. Law forbids their employment as miners, as it does in Pennsylvania, till they can speak and understand the language of the country. The author calls the Slavs “our fifth estate,” and he contends that with the introduction of cutting-machines, now rapidly taking place, this class of unskilled labor will find a larger and larger employment.

The conditions of employment seem, on the whole, favorable. The men work in eight-hour shifts—an advantage gained by the strike of 1889, which occupies the place in the history of that region now occupied by the strike of 1902 in Pennsylvania. There is some complaint that the operators administer the eight-hour agreement in such a way as to require nine and sometimes ten hours underground. The employment is more regular than in the anthracite mines. Since 1892 the average number of shifts per employee has not been less than 300, and in 1900 it was 318. In the same time the number of days worked in the anthracite mines has rarely been 200, the average being about 180. Wages are low as compared with those in this country. The highest class received nearly twice as much in 1900 as in 1888, and yet got only 5.16 marks, and the annual earnings for the class averaged only 1,592 marks. The author gives tables showing the price of coal for a series of years, another showing the profits of the mine-owners, and concludes that the demands of the men for higher wages are justified by the profits of the business. Conditions as to safety are not relatively so favorable as they were some years ago. England used to send commissions of inquiry

to Germany to learn the secret of safe mining. Lately Germany has sent such commissions to England. The number of fatal accidents in England per 1,000 employed was in 1900, 1.29; for all Prussia, 2.24; for the anthracite region, 3.29 (1899). The greatest hope for improving conditions of safety lies in the increased use of cutting-machines, now little employed. In mines where they are used they have, by lessening the accidents due to "roof falls," reduced the fatalities by one-half.

The conditions outside the mines are described in the last four chapters. The housing of the population is studied in great detail. Of the miners 17 per cent. live in their own houses, 21.1 per cent. in houses belonging to the companies, and 61.9 per cent. in private rented houses. The rentals of company houses, like those in the anthracite region, are lower than the rentals of private houses. No such conditions of shameful overcrowding are reported as are found in the anthracite region. Still the dwellings are very humble. Of 251 representative dwellings it was found that 5 per cent. got along with one room, 57 per cent. with a kitchen and one bedroom, and 25 per cent. with a kitchen and two bedrooms. The picture of the social life is much more pleasant than that in the anthracite communities. State insurance gives certain relief for those who conform with the conditions of the law. But it is complained that the rates are higher than used to be required for keeping up the old *Knappschaftskassen*, that the law interferes with *Freizügigkeit*, and hence certain reforms are demanded. The miners maintain various minor organizations for mutual aid, have libraries and reading-rooms, maintain lecture and concert courses, and support *Volksgärten* and other places of resort.

Both books agree in finding in the Slav a valuable industrial agent and in regarding him as by no means hopeless, under proper surroundings, from the point of view of citizenship; in insisting on more efficient and honest inspection of the mines; and in paying tribute to the miners' unions as a means of economic and moral betterment.

GEORGE O. VIRTUE.

WINONA, MINN.

The Slav Invasion and the Mine Workers. By FRANK JULIAN WARNE. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1904. 12mo, pp. 211.

THE material for this interesting book was for the most part collected in the anthracite region during the strikes of 1900 and 1902,